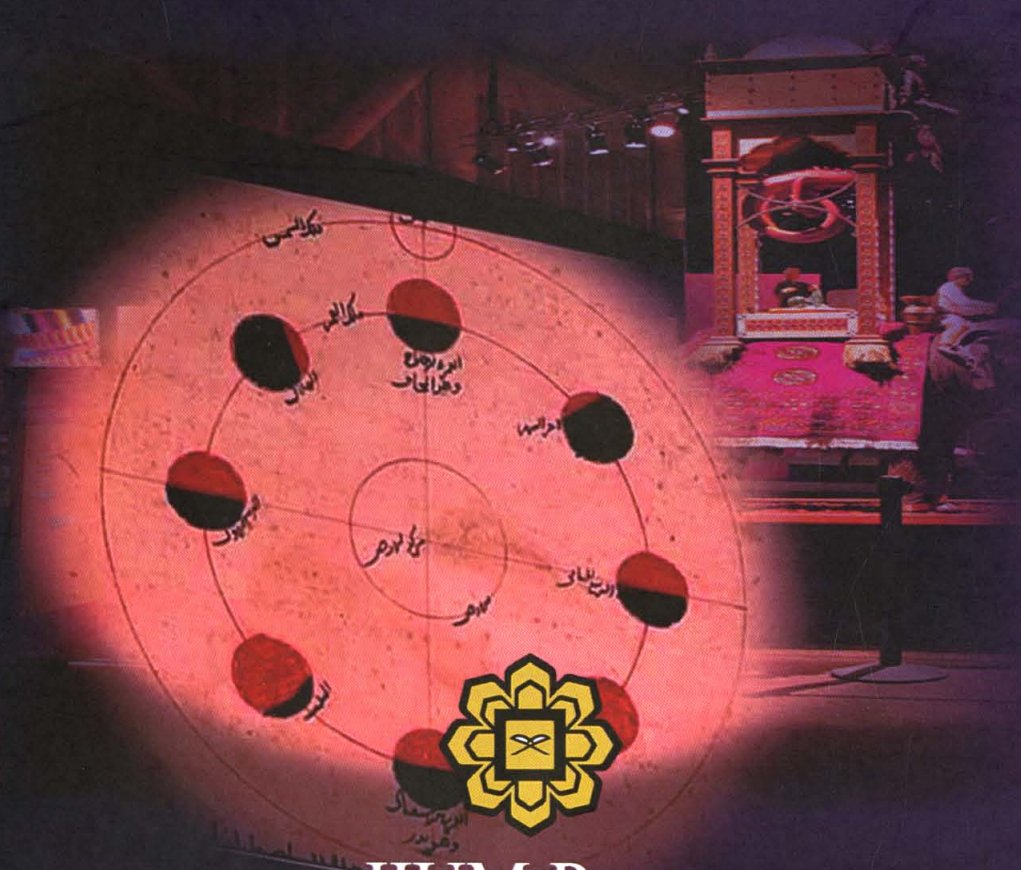


Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

Abdi O. Shuriye
Raihan Othman



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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

STUDIES IN GYNAECOLOGY IN *ZAD AL-MUSAFIR WA QUT AL-HADIR* OF ABU JAAFAR IBN AL-JAZZAR

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17.1 INTRODUCTION

The main focus of this chapter is to present the work of Ibn Al-Jazzar in his sixth book of *Zad al-Musafir wa Qut al-Hadir* which focuses on gynaecology. The significance of the research is to show that with high commitment, one can excel in any area that he explores. The methodology adopted in completing this research is mainly based on information seeking. Books, journals and the information technology (internet) were made used in achieving the goal to educate the readers on this subject. In 1993, Prof. Dr. Gerrit Bos from Germany had published an article entitled *Ibn Al-Jazzar on Women's Diseases* in the 37th volume of Medical History and thus, this article has provided me the most extensive information in conducting this research.

17.2 ZAD AL-MUSAFIR WA QUT AL-HADIR

Ibn Al-Jazzar had produced *Zad al-Musafir wa Qut al-Hadir* (Provisions for the Traveller and the Nourishment for the Settled) that consists of seven books, at which most of it remains in manuscripts (Gerrit Bos, 1993, p.297). The discussions are on different diseases from head to toe, their names in Persian, Greeak and Syriac, their synonyms, etiology, and followed by their symptomatology which are all presented in a concise form. It also includes their treatments as well as the use of minerals (salts, copper, arsenic and minerals). This work, which is considered as his most influential work, was meant to be a systematic medical handbook, served those who are in need of medical advices without the availability of any physicians and can also be brought on a journey (Gerrit Bos, 1993, p.297).

It contains a compilation of quotations from several famous physicians and philosophers including Hippocrates, Aristotle, Rufus, Galen, Al-Qawabili (Paul of Aegina) and Polemon (Aref, 2000, p. 224). In discussing on the aetiology of the diseases, he is highly influenced by Galen's humoural theory and Al-Qawabili (Gerrit Bos, 1993, p.298). The first century physician, Dioscurides is his main source in describing simple drugs whereas for matters related to compound drugs, he relies on various Arab authorities (Gerrit Bos, 1993, p.299). There are a few magical prescriptions recommended by the ninth century Arab physician, 'Ali Ibn Rabban Al-Tabari in his writing (Aref, 2000, p. 225). Furthermore, the topics on pharmacology are quoted from several sources.

Due to its comprehensiveness and usefulness, it was translated into Greek, Hebrew, Latin and Irish; and had been widely used in universities and medical school